

lished. Before 1751 regiments were generally designated by their commanders' names rather than by numbers, and their early history was often obscure. Fortunately for Macaulay a series of regimental histories began to be published in 1837. He writes : ' Most of the materials which I have used for this account of the regular army will be found in the Historical Records of Regiments, published by command of King William the Fourth, and under the direction of the Adjutant General/ ¹ These official compilations had many defects, and in the case of most of the regiments included they have now been superseded by better books, but they sufficed to supply Macaulay with the data he needed. Supplementing them by the authorities published since, the regimental history of the army up to the disbanding of 1697 ^{can} be satisfactorily traced, and Macaulay's account corrected when necessary.

The formation of the army dates not from the year of the King's restoration but from 1661. Its nucleus consisted of three troops and three regiments. The three troops were the King's, the Duke of York's, and the Duke of Albe-marle's troops of life guards, which are now represented by the First and Second Life Guards. The three regiments were the Earl of Oxford's regiment of horse, known later as the Blues ; the King's own regiment of Foot Guards, now the Grenadier Guards; and one

regiment of
foot from the Cromwellian army, which became
known as
the Coldstream Guards. Other regiments
were raised
from time to time as occasion demanded and
disbanded
again when the need was over. Five of them
are still to

¹1, 288 (iii). Between 1837 and 1852 there were
published, in all, 71
volumes, which included records of all the existing
regiments of cavalry and
of 42 regiments of infantry of the line. They were edited by
Richard Can-
non, principal clerk of the Adjutant-General's office,
excepting the history
of the Royal Horse Guards, which was written by Captain
Edmund Packe.